

THE BULLETIN

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

FEBRUARY 7, 2005 • 58TH YEAR • NUMBER 12

VOICES CARRY



U of T students rallied outside Convocation Hall Feb. 3 before marching over to Queen's Park to join protesters from other Ontario universities. The rally was organized by the Canadian Federation of Students in anticipation of former Ontario premier Bob Rae's recommendations for higher education, expected to be released today. "We want to make sure that the Ontario government hears loudly and clearly that college and university education is a top priority for Ontarians," said Jesse Greener, Ontario chair of the federation.

Environmental Sustainability Office Launched

By Mary Alice Thring

AS COMEDIAN RICK MERCER exhorts Canadians to take the "one tonne challenge" — use less energy, conserve water and resources and reduce waste — U of T has launched a sustainability office with the goal of exceeding its proportion of Canada's Kyoto Protocol commitments and building on its existing role as a leader in sustainable practices among Canadian institutions.

The office, which works with an advisory panel of faculty, staff and students, aims to provide support and advice for the development of

a greenhouse gas and energy reduction strategy for the university.

"The new sustainability office is a progressive new milestone of collaborative achievement by students and faculty on environmental issues," said Professor Ron Venter, vice-provost (space and facilities planning). "It embodies the very best of the Stepping Up initiatives for student participation and outreach to the community. We all need to be very much more aware of the global energy situation and the protection of our environment; at U of T we can collectively show the way forward."

The Kyoto accord — an

international agreement designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions — will come into force Feb. 16. Canada, which joined the agreement in 1997, voluntarily accepted an aggressive target of a six per cent reduction below 1990 emissions levels.

U of T may have an easier time meeting that challenge than others, Venter said. The university has reduced waste going to landfill by 68 per cent since its recycling program began in 1991. In 1994, U of T was among the first universities in North America to adopt

-See SUSTAINABILITY Page 2-

Iraqi Election Stirs Emotions on Campus

By Elaine Smith

JANUARY ENDED WITH A NEW TWIST for medical student Wigdan Al-Sukhni — she voted in an Iraqi election for the first time.

"It was very emotional and gratifying to have that happen," said Al-Sukhni, who cast her ballot here in Toronto along with her parents and three siblings. "We all want to participate in rebuilding our country, our homeland and we won't allow terrorists to take over and destroy it."

"It's almost like a symbolic gesture," she said. "I don't think anyone truly believes everything will suddenly turn rosy, just as they didn't believe the war would solve everything but they're happy because the opportunity for change is there."

Al-Sukhni has resided outside of Iraq for most of her 25 years but she lived in Karbala during the first Gulf War in 1991.

"I saw what Saddam Hussein was capable of doing in 1991 when Iraqis picked up arms and tried to rebel," she said. "He was brutal in his retaliation. It was a truly evil regime bent on destroying the backbone of the country; I don't know anyone who is upset that Saddam was removed."

Al-Sukhni's choice of medicine as a profession sprang from the powerlessness she felt during the carnage 14 years ago. She desperately wants to help her people. "I'm trying to make a positive outcome of what I had to deal with," she said. "In general, I wanted to make life better."

"When I finish my training, my goal is to at least help with the reconstruction of Iraq, either by being a liaison or by

going myself."

Professor Amir HARRAK of near and Middle Eastern civilizations also bore the distinctive discoloured finger that signified an Iraqi who cast a ballot. HARRAK, who hasn't lived in Iraq for 30 years, isn't certain his vote will bring peace but felt compelled to participate in the election.

"I have family there and friends, it's my native country so it does matter," the Mosul native said. "The situation is extremely bad there, there's chaos and violence. Iraqis don't have any other choice, so I went to vote, hoping it will lead to a better situation."

Lydia Shaswar, who teaches at the University of Sulaimany in Iraqi Kurdistan, is completing a master's degree at OISE/UT. As the election unfolded, she was glued to the Internet, watching for the latest news from Iraq.

"I kept on reading the Iraqi blogs one after another and the simple words of both Arabs and Kurds were bringing tears to my eyes because it reminded me of our hopes and aspirations to live in peace in a country that respects our dignity and that honours us," she said. "And we all were deprived of this under the rule of Saddam Hussein."

She knows the election won't magically cure all the problems in Iraq but she is hopeful that change will slowly take place as people become accustomed to freedom.

"[Canadians] can't imagine how the concept of freedom uplifts you and supports you," she said. "You live in this society and you think freedom is as it should be but we have to struggle for it."

Ryan Blends Art and Science

By Karen Kelly

STEP INTO RYAN'S WORLD AND you'll feel woozy, uncertain why floors tilt slightly and walls wave like the ocean.

It's deliberate — blame the animators, not last night's party. This is the groundbreaking vision of director Chris Landreth and it's earned him an Academy Award nomination in the animated short film category.

U of T has a connection to this distorted world. Professor Karan

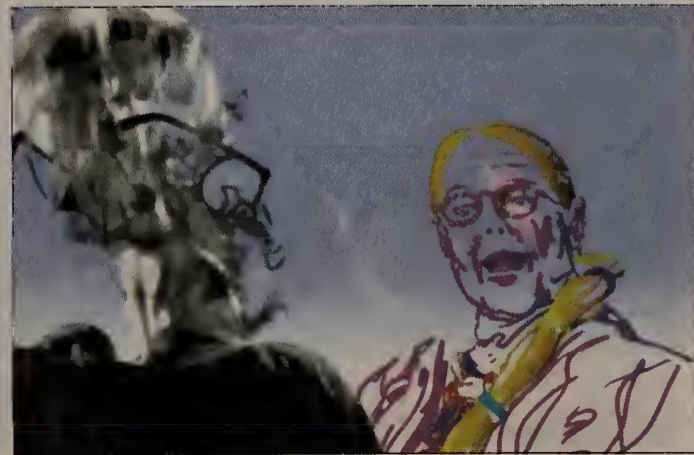
Singh of computer science met Landreth in 1995 when they worked at an animation company called Alias. The two become fast friends and collaborated on various projects over the years, with Landreth providing the artistic vision and Singh providing the technical know-how.

In 2002, Landreth approached Singh with an unusual request — he wanted to make a film about Ryan Larkin, an animation genius who eventually ended up on social assistance and panhandling in

Montreal. Singh didn't hesitate and the two began their usual pattern of collaboration.

"Chris and I played this back-and-forth game where he came and said, I have this idea and I said, OK; and we went our separate ways," said Singh, who became the project's software research and development director. "My job is to take the artistic description of what is in Chris' head and come up with a math manifestation of that."

-See RYAN Page 2-



STILL FROM THE MOVIE RYAN

IN BRIEF



NEW BUILDINGS REACH NEW HEIGHTS

CONSTRUCTION MILESTONES HAVE BEEN REACHED AT THE TWO MOST prominent building sites on the St. George campus. Both Morrison Hall, the new 273-bed residence on St. George Street, and the Leslie L. Dan Pharmacy Building at College and University, marked the symbolic pour of the last buckets of concrete required to form the 13-storey towers. The crane on Morrison Hall will be in place until mid-February. With the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning units in place, work is now proceeding towards enclosing the residence. The pharmacy building has been enclosed with tarps since November to expedite the construction schedule. The landmark crane on top of the building will be in place until March. Despite January's cold temperatures both buildings remain on schedule for opening in September.

MORE CONVENIENCE FOR NEW EMPLOYEES

NEW EMPLOYEES NO LONGER HAVE TO TREK UP TO THE NEAREST LIBRARY to get a library card before accessing e-mail and other campus computer services. Starting Feb. 1, all new hires are being mailed a letter with activation codes for their UTORid, the common identifying code for all campus computer services, such as UTOEmail and Webmail. "They don't even need a library card, now," said Russell Sutherland of computing and networking services. The letter should be received by a new faculty or staff member within 48 hours of their departmental business officer recording their hire. Sutherland stressed, however, that sending the UTORid access codes through the mail is only a temporary measure until all business officers can be fully trained in some new procedures. "Eventually, the business officer will be able to print out that piece of paper locally and just hand it to the new hire," he said.

THE BULLETIN

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"The Bulletin shall be a University-wide newspaper for faculty and staff with a dual mandate:

1. To convey information accurately on the official University position on important matters as reflected in decisions and statements by the Governing Council and the administration.
2. It shall also publish campus news, letters and responsible opinion and report on events or issues at the University thoroughly and from all sides."

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Sustainability Office Launched

-Continued From Page 1-

an environmental protection policy and, Venter added, its design standards for new construction clearly mandate environmental care in everything from the way a building sits on its site to materials used for finishes and furnishings. The sustainability office is an outgrowth of the environmental protection advisory committee established in 1994 by a group of green-minded volunteers comprising faculty, staff and students.

With 125 buildings on 110 acres, the St. George campus is a large consumer of energy but conservation methods that have been in place since the oil crisis of the 1970s continue to be monitored and upgraded. For instance, the campus has its own co-generating plant that supplies about 16 per

cent of its power needs and reverse osmosis systems have reduced water consumption by half. Under the banner "grow smart, grow green," U of T at Mississauga's Centre for Emerging Energy Technologies has plans to implement several new environmentally friendly energy technologies including fuel cells that will power a block of townhouse-style student residences and solar panels that will generate electricity for the library. At U of T at Scarborough, the entire campus has been operating on an upgraded heating and cooling control program which has allowed a substantial reduction in energy demand over the past decade.

"The sustainability office is a historic step towards environmental improvement at the University

of Toronto," said Professor Beth Savan, inaugural director. "I look forward to working with staff, students and faculty to build an even cleaner, greener U of T."

Funding for the office has been provided by the City of Toronto Atmospheric Fund and the federal Energy Innovators Initiative. Under the guidance of Savan and Bruce Dodds, director of utilities and building operations, the preliminary focus will be on the St. George campus. Students are filling a variety of roles including both work-study and volunteer positions and undertaking research through related course projects.

The office will host an open house from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 10 in the lobby of the Earth Sciences Centre.

Ryan Blends Art and Science

-Continued From Page 1-

With the support of industry partners pulled together by Toronto-based Copper Heart Entertainment and co-producer the National Film Board in association with Seneca College, the project picked up steam and the team enlisted students from the Dynamic Graphics Project, an interdisciplinary research laboratory in U of T's computer science department. The students and Singh researched and wrote a number of scripts and plug-ins to achieve various effects and streamline production for the animators.

One of the students, Patrick Coleman, became a production programmer; he turned his work on the film into a master's thesis focused on a nonlinear projection

system that allowed the animators to create multiple points of view and combine them to create the movie's signature slightly-skewed image.

Coleman, now working towards his PhD in computer science, described his time working on Ryan as "one of the best learning experiences in the field."

"The director is really imaginative and likes to push his field forward," Coleman said. "It was really refreshing to work with him."

Part of capturing Landreth's imagination involved turning his ideas into underlying mathematics. By building intricate equations, the team accomplished tasks such as creating metaphorical hair-like strands that tangle the characters as well as painstakingly remapping facial expressions.

Singh viewed the work as the perfect blend between science and art. "I think there are a lot of scientists who miss out on the intuition we can get working with artists," he said. "Likewise, there is a lot of beauty in math equations. Most artists are blown away when you show them what they can do."

As for winning the Oscar, Singh and Coleman have the same wait-and-see attitude. "It feels great [to be nominated]," said Singh. "But I just enjoy doing this type of stuff, so if we win fantastic. If not, I'll still be doing it."

"It's an other-worldly thing you don't think about," said Coleman. As for special Oscar night plans, Coleman paused then said jokingly, "Maybe I'll watch it this time."

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Harper Must Invoke Notwithstanding Clause, Experts Say

By Sue Toye

A GROUP OF LAW PROFESSORS IS urging Opposition leader Stephen Harper to invoke the notwithstanding clause if he wants to preserve the traditional legal definition of marriage.

In a letter dated Jan. 24, 134 prominent law academics across the country urged Harper to be "completely honest with Canadians about the unconstitutionality of your proposal, which will only guarantee that same sex marriage ends up back before the courts as opposed to being resolved by Parliament."

The letter urges Harper to explain how his plan to entrench the traditional definition of marriage will pass "constitutional muster."

"The truth is," the letter states, "there is only one way to accomplish your goal: invoke the notwithstanding clause."

U of T law professors Sujit Choudhry and Jean-François Gaudreault-DesBiens drafted the letter following the Supreme Court of Canada's response to Ottawa's questions surrounding the constitutionality of allowing same-sex marriage. However, the ruling was not definitive and has left a gap that Harper proposes to fill through legislation. The notwithstanding clause in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms gives Parliament the right to override certain sections of the charter, including equality rights. Choudhry and Gaudreault-DesBiens quickly found support among peers on campus and across the country.

"The idea here was to make sure the public debate was proceeding on a correct legal footing because we are dealing with the Charter of Rights," said

Choudhry, who also circulated copies of the letter to every member of Parliament and senator in the country. "Parliament can have the last word on fundamental rights but only if it follows a special procedure."

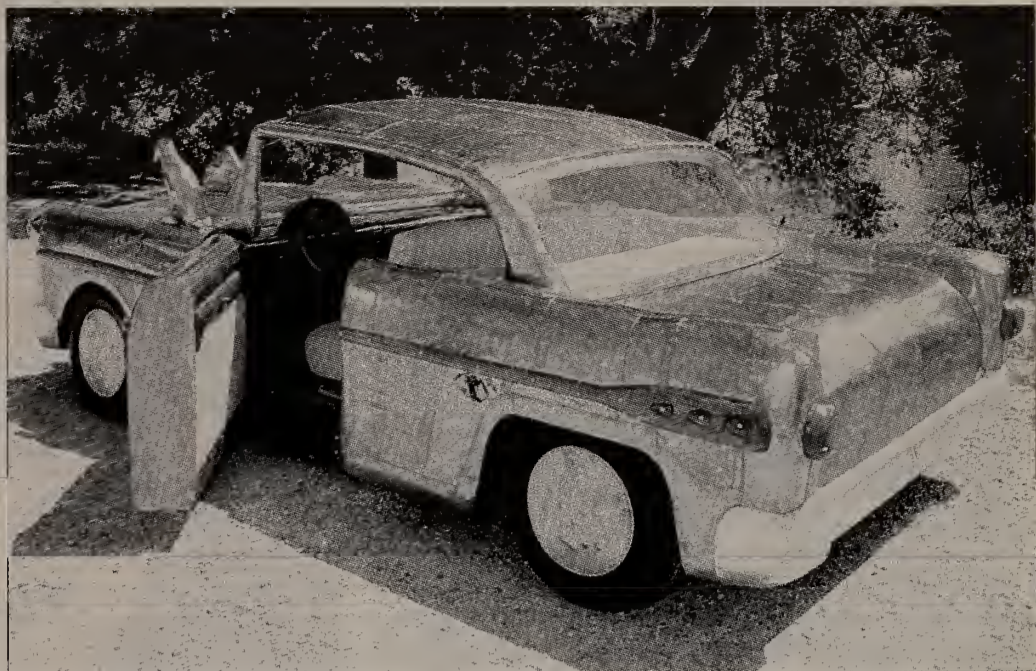
Professor Colleen Sheppard of McGill University said she signed the letter because she believes equal rights for members of the gay and lesbian community are at stake. "It was important given the emerging consensus in courts across the country that the existing definition of marriage violated the equality provisions to deny marriage to same-sex couples," she said.

The issue of same-sex marriage and whether the notwithstanding clause should be invoked has been the focus of a public lecture and debate among students and faculty at the law school for the past few weeks.

But not all U of T law experts agree on the issue. Professor Alan Brudner countered the arguments detailed in the letter, saying that only the common law definition of marriage has been declared unconstitutional by provincial courts. This means that it is still an open question whether parliamentary legislation reaffirming the common law definition is unconstitutional, he said. "As long as it is an open question then Harper need not invoke the notwithstanding clause if he wants to maintain the definition of a traditional marriage."

The Liberal government introduced the same-sex marriage bill in Parliament Feb. 1. A ratification vote is expected in the next few months.

Great Wheels



JOHN TAMBLYN PHOTOGRAPHY

Now showing at the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery at Hart House, Tom Benner: *Cruising the Margins* is an installation of hand-crafted automobiles like this one, each tagged with the familiar name of a memorable figure from colonial history. The life-size model vehicles are imaginative replicas of cars marketed under such names as Pontiac, DeSoto and Chev Apache. The exhibition runs until March 3.

Cancer Victim Shares Her Story

By Jamie Harrison

NOT MANY PEOPLE WOULD describe cancer as fun but then Annie Smith tends to look at life on her own terms.

Smith, a studio art professor, artist, 20-year cancer survivor and now a terminal cancer patient, has decided to spend the final days of her earthly journey much the same as those that preceded — left seized and drained of every last moment of joy. This is not a story of Smith's illness, nor is it a story of how and when Smith will finally leave this mortal coil; it is a story of Smith's story — the one she is sharing in her book *Bearing Up With Cancer*.

It was the endless waiting that prompted Smith to write the book, she said. "I've often drawn this little bear and when I was waiting interminably in doctor's offices, I would pass the time by

drawing my little bear going through some of these things I was going through. That's really how it began."

Through her cartoon bear character, Smith tells the story of what it is like to live with cancer — the hardships and indignities but also the joys and oddities that make up a journey most people would just as soon avoid but many will have to face.

Bearing Up was originally intended for other women dealing with reproductive cancers but, in a surprise to Smith, has had a far greater impact.

"One of the things that I had never intended was that the book should be for children," she said. "It was only ever intended really for women. But once it was out there and being read, I found I was getting a lot of feedback from people saying that this book has been the best communicator with their children.

Smith is one of the founders of the University of Toronto at Mississauga's (UTM) art and art history program and the driving force behind a collaborative fine art program between UTM and Sheridan College, a first between a college and university in North America. In recognition of her contributions to UTM, the Annie Smith Scholarship was endowed in 2000 with funds from faculty, staff, students and alumni.

So, how is this fun?

"I smile when I draw the little bear," she said. "He's a neat little character because he can take on different attitudes and emulate the different feelings that one has. I've received some really rewarding letters from doctors. One of the comments I received from one doctor was, Annie, the biggest thing you've done for us is that you've given us permission to laugh. That hit me."

Radiation Exposure May Be Good for Your Health

By Karen Kelly

A NEW STUDY FROM U OF T AT Scarborough has found that low doses of radiation could

have beneficial effects on health.

The findings, published in *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry*, found that low chronic doses of gamma radiation at 50

to 200 times background levels had beneficial effects on the stress axis and the immune axis of natural populations of meadow voles.

The paper provides evidence of hormesis — when low doses of a harmful agent have beneficial effects — from the only large-scale, long-term experimental field test ever conducted on the chronic effects of gamma radiation on mammals.

Hormesis has been observed in a broad range of chemicals including alcohol and its metabolites, antibiotics, hydrocarbons, herbicides, insecticides and fungicides as well as physical processes such as radiation exposure.

The effects of hormesis have been observed in a wide range of

organisms, from microbes and fungi to plants and animals. Hormetic responses are varied in form and include increased longevity; growth, reproductive and physiological responses; and metabolic effects.

"Exactly how low-level radiation causes a hormetic response remains uncertain because few laboratories have studied the pathology or physiology of mammals exposed throughout life to dose rates below those causing detrimental effects," said Professor Rudy Boonstra of zoology and the Centre for the Neurobiology of Stress. "This study provides a potential mechanism to explain the beneficial effects."

In the study, Boonstra and

colleagues studied the meadow vole populations at the Whiteshell Nuclear Research Establishment at Pinawa, Man. The experiment was set up by Atomic Energy of Canada to test the effects of chronic gamma radiation on natural populations. In isolated populations, voles received one of three radiation treatments over a four-year period.

"Our findings suggest that a moderate increase in glucocorticoid levels, associated with low-level radiation, could be an important factor underlying the increase in longevity that has been observed in other shorter studies on small mammals exposed to low-level radiation," Boonstra said.



The northern red-backed vole

R. BOONSTRA

HART HOUSE WEEKLY EVENTS

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Monday, February 7

Amateur Radio Club General Meeting, Richard Govoni demonstrates an "Intro to Operating Digital Modes", 6-8pm in the Debates Room.

Wednesday, February 9

Chinese New Year \$5 Lunch, 11:30am-2pm in the Great Hall. Come celebrate the year of the rooster. All welcome.

HIV/AIDS Africa Initiative Evening - Join a discussion around first-hand reports of HIV/AIDS treatment in Ethiopia with Doctors Without Borders' (MSF) Kenneth Tong and Simona Powell. Live music from the U of T Faculty of Music. Light refreshments. 5:30pm, East Common Room. Next event: Thurs. Mar. 10, 5:30pm.

Thursday, February 10

Orchestra Winter Concert -8pm in the Great Hall. Free. All welcome.

STAGES - District Six Music presents The Quartertones, 9pm, Arbor Room.

Friday, February 11

Black History Month - "History, Denial and Silence: Africa's Rightful Place Past & Present", panel discussion by African Studies Dept. & BSA, 7pm, Music Room.

Jazz at Oscars - Peter Smith Latin Jazz Quartet, 9-11:30 in the Arbor Room.

Saturday, February 12

Amateur Radio Club Course - Sat. Feb. 12 and 19, 5-8pm in the North Dining Room. \$25 members. Register at the Hall Porters' Desk.

Sunday, February 13

Gala Concert features guest conductor, Ivars Taurins and six university choirs, including Hart House Chorus, 2pm at Convocation Hall, U of T. Student/Senior \$10; Regular \$15 Tickets at uoftix.ca/416.978.8849 or at the door.

UPCOMING

MARTINI NIGHT Tues. Mar. 8, 7pm, Music Room - "Shaken Not Stirred". Register upon presentation of membership card at MSO prior to Mar. 1st deadline. Hart House alumni members & guests: \$35 each; U of T students: \$30.

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The Justina M. Barnicke Gallery - "Cruising the Margins", an installation of hand-crafted automobiles by Tom Benner. Runs to Mar. 3.

The Arbor Room -Denise Wilson, exhibition. Runs to Mar. 19.

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PROFILE HIGH C's

Music dean a man of many parts

By MICHAH RYNOR



STEVE BEHAL

HE ISN'T YOUR TYPICAL COLLEGE DROPOUT — the forestry program at Wisconsin just wasn't for him — and not many farm boys end up becoming deans of music but that's exactly where Gage Averill finds himself.

Averill, a long-time fan of this city, had been looking for a way to settle in Toronto to be near his wife's extended family after a stint at New York University where he had been chair of music since 2001. Like some of his colleagues south of the border, Averill was disenchanted with the presidency of George W. Bush and wanted to leave the U.S. until better days came along.

An ethnomusicology graduate from the University of Washington, he has had an amazingly successful and distinguished career, having taught at Princeton, Columbia, Washington and Wesleyan universities.

As well, his CV records lists of fellowships, awards and publications that might make you think you're reading the resumé of someone much older.

This one-man band has also studied Haitian drumming, Irish concertina, North Indian tabla, Sudanese gamelan, Ghanaian and Ewe drumming, Mexican son jarocho harp and jarana, Zimbabwean mibira, Philippine kulintang, Afro-Cuban and Brazilian percussion and Irish sean-nos singing. He's also a fan of barbershop quartets and has just released an award-winning book on the subject. In other words, this is definitely one guy you want to invite to an office party.

And just to let you know that he's a well-rounded kind of fellow, his resumé lists his former lives as a tractor and school bus driver, a kayak trainer, white-water river guide, freelance graphic artist, radio talk show host and the music programmer for the Good Karma Coffeehouse in Madison, Wis.

Averill says he can finally relax now that his family has found a home in Mississauga and is finally

"planted" in Toronto. But his life doesn't sound too relaxing, especially when his workday typically begins at 7 a.m. with a workout at the gym, then off to the office where a number of critical challenges await him.

For one thing, he has to tackle the budgetary restrictions that exist at all university and college campuses today, especially in Ontario. "The Faculty of Music has seen a 17-year erosion of budgets and if you want to be the best in Canada and one of the premiere faculties of music in the world, one has to find ways to develop new and innovative programs while budgets are declining," Averill says, while contending that fundraising will be one of his major activities as dean.

Averill says he enjoys being in the classroom and has a myriad of research projects that he's itching to complete — including a 15-CD project on rare music from Haiti (where he once lived). He's also working on a number of books including one on black-face minstrel recordings from the early 20th century and another on American choral traditions.

As well, he hopes to oversee the building of a new recital hall along with expanded library space for the faculty. Another of his priorities is creating a closer relationship with the Royal Conservatory of Music. "It is in both of our interests to co-operate and share programs and to really amplify the strength of both of our institutions," he says.

Originally from a game farm in Pawling, N.Y., (his family raised ducks and pheasants) Averill keeps in shape by biking, kayaking, scuba diving and carpentry work. But the teaching bug is a strong one and even in the summer you'll find him in front of students — although this particular classroom is on the high seas — delivering his occasional music lectures on the Queen Mary 2 through Oxford University's Discovery Program.

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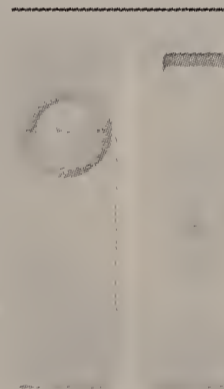
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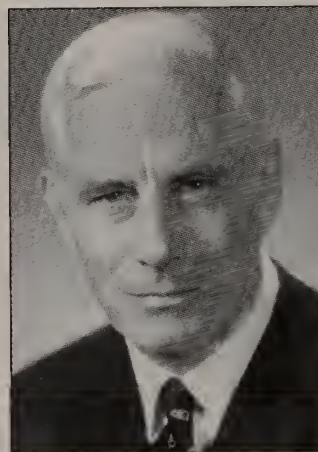
Stagg Was Well-Respected Cervantine Scholar

PROFESSOR EMERITUS GEOFFREY Stagg of Spanish and Portuguese died Nov. 10. He was 91 years old.

Stagg joined the U of T faculty in 1956 and was chair of the Department of Italian and Hispanic Studies from 1956 to 1966 and again in 1968. He was instrumental in establishing the new Department of Italian Studies in 1973 and continued to serve as chair of the separate Department of Hispanic Studies until his retirement in 1978.

Born in Birmingham, England, Stagg studied at King Edward's School before attending Trinity Hall, Cambridge. He then went on to Harvard University where he completed his MA in Romance philology. During the Second World War he served with distinction as an officer in the intelligence corps and was named a member of the Order of the British Empire in 1945.

After the war Stagg played a prominent role in the de-nazification process in Vienna before returning to academia in 1947 to teach Spanish at Nottingham University. In 1954 he was appointed head of the newly created Spanish department. He was also very active in the establishment of the Association of Hispanists of Britain and Ireland and exercised a



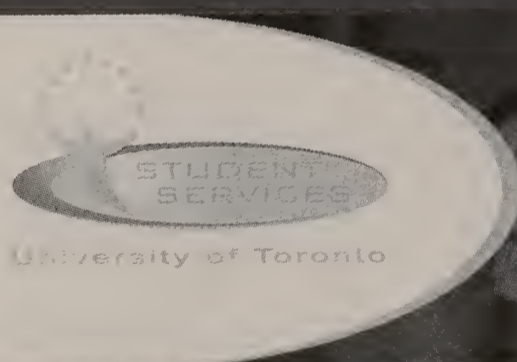
similar function some years later in the founding of the Canadian Association of Hispanists.

Before coming to U of T Stagg was already known as an excellent Cervantine scholar and he continued to contribute to this field. Through careful and detailed research he clarified such issues as the dating of some of Cervantes' plays, his literary influences and borrowings and the antecedents of major themes in his work. "Stagg's analysis of the early stages of the composition of *Don Quijote* quickly gained widespread acceptance and is now regarded as seminal scholarship on the genesis of Cervantes' novel," said Professor Stephen Rupp, a student of Stagg's and a Cervantine scholar himself.

Once Stagg arrived at U of T he quickly reached the conclusion that a separate graduate department for Hispanic and Italian studies was necessary for further development. These studies had been combined with French in a graduate department of Romance languages. Building on the reputation of the department, Stagg created an entity described in 1983 by reviewers from the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies as one of the top 10 in North America. Also among the highlights of his career was hosting the 1977 meeting of the International Hispanists in Toronto. "His meticulous planning and organization set a standard to be imitated in all the meetings to follow," said Professor James Burke, a colleague and friend.

A dedicated and enthusiastic teacher, Stagg inspired many students to specialize in Spanish Golden Age literature and directed a large number of doctoral theses in this area. As a result a number of his students have shaped the field of Golden Age studies in Canada and hold university positions in the United States and Spain.

"He was a careful and meticulous scholar who expected, and exacted, a high level of performance from all those who worked with him," Burke said.



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THE COURAGE TO CO-OPERATE

Conflict resolution requires more than just action

By HARVEY SKINNER

I WAS STRUCK BY THE CALMNESS ON DEC. 20, 2004, AS I walked slowly through the Ramallah compound up to Yasser Arafat's steel and glass burial chamber. My Palestinian colleague, Professor Mahammad Shahin, and two Canadian medical students, Russell and Javeed, accompanied me. A guard motioned to us to enter. We stood there together — a Christian, a Jew and two Muslims — quietly reflecting about events over the past year, resisting the urge to speculate about the (unpredictable) future in the Middle East.

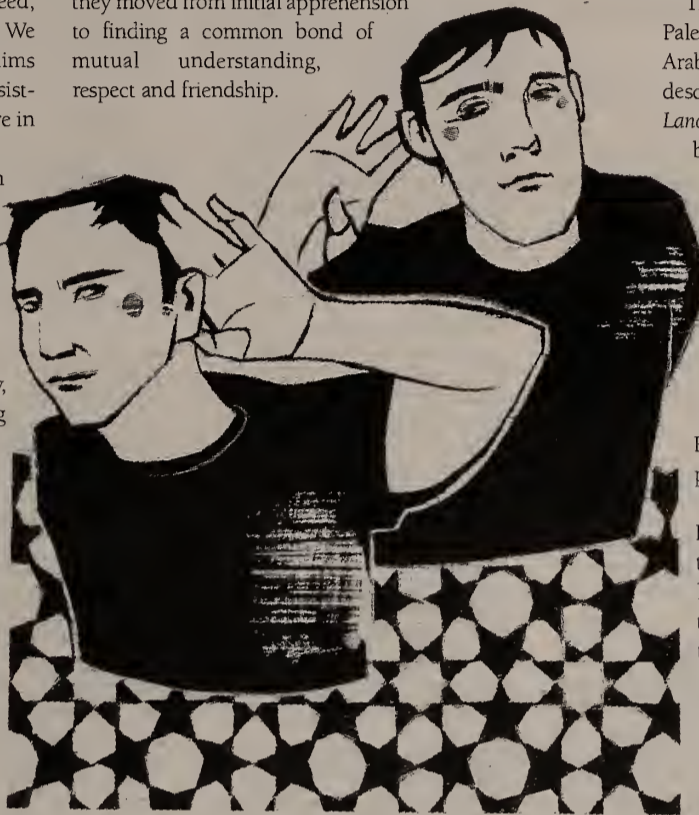
Earlier that week I visited Jordanian colleagues in Amman and witnessed the outcome — indeed a miracle — of our work on hearing loss. A six-year-old boy was “playing” with the speech therapist, fully engaged in the hearing world after a cochlear implant performed one year ago by two surgeons — one Israeli, the other Jordanian — working side by side. Later that week, I attended a wrap-up day at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, for 20 Bedouin youth who were completing action projects addressing violence prevention and suicide prevention in their respective communities. The energy level was buzzing during their presentations to each other.

These are glimpses of my experiences on the ground in the Middle East during the past five years, working with a growing network of colleagues committed to building cross-border co-operation. But these positive activities rarely make news headlines or graphic images for the media.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict embodies a fault line of contested history, disputed entitlements and power differentials. This tension was exemplified last week at U of T by controversy surrounding the Israeli Apartheid Week, organized by the Arab Students' Collective. Framing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as apartheid is a powerful political stance, one that will not engender an open, reflexive and constructive discourse.

Consider this alternative: imagine six Israeli, Palestinian and Canadian medical students sitting around a campfire singing and working together with children with cancer at Camp Trillium in Ontario in June 2003. Click forward one year to July 2004 and imagine eight Israeli, Jordanian, Palestinian and Canadian medical and audiology students conducting health research together during the day and exploring Toronto's social life by night. These programs at

U of T were organized jointly by SUNSIH (Student University Network for Social and International Health) and CISEPO (Canada International Scientific Exchange Program). Students found their experience to be transformative as they moved from initial apprehension to finding a common bond of mutual understanding, respect and friendship.



Over the past month I have been greatly impressed with the leadership shown by our students in addressing the tsunami disaster — working together on fundraising and helping with immediate concerns of families in the local Toronto community. Our diverse student body has come together to take positive, practical steps while also learning more about each other in the process.

These examples shine light on a way forward in conflict resolution. We expand our perspectives and are energized by working together on a humanitarian concern. It is noteworthy that while the Arab Students' Collective was running Israeli Apartheid Week, the Jewish student group Hillel

organized a week-long cultural event, Israel FEST 2005. What gains in mutual understanding would occur if students from these two organizations collaborated on projects of common concern?

This builds on experiences of my Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian colleagues over the past decade in promoting Arab and Israeli co-operation through health initiatives, described in our article published online Jan. 25 by *The Lancet*. In an initial project, 17,000 Arab and Israeli newborn babies were tested and habilitated for hearing loss. Our next phase is testing 130,000 infants in underserved communities. Our collaboration addresses important health concerns in the region while also building bridges among neighbours during a period of major conflict. Indeed, people are drawn together by these dual goals — characterized by a Palestinian colleague as “two birds in one tree.”

There is a vital need for listening as a precursor to co-operation. This is consistent with the teachings of Paolo Friere's critical pedagogy where *listening*, precedes *dialogue*, precedes *action*.


Current approaches to resolving issues in the Middle East place too much emphasis on immediate action (e.g., the road map), without first engaging in respectful dialogue built upon sensitive listening. At U of T, it is important that we encourage listening and reflection at all levels to better understand, prevent and ease tensions.

Canadians are in a relatively unique position because of our social values, our international entry and our experience in building a multicultural society. We can demonstrate the leadership needed to foster co-existence, narrow the gap of the disadvantaged and build a civil society on a global scale. For the academic community this speaks to all of us to play a role in promoting international co-operation networks. While politicians may negotiate “peace” through formal accords, only through people-to-people co-operation can we breathe life into any such agreement.

The important work begins with us. It is easy to be intolerant, blaming or just indifferent. A more challenging way is to build bridges among our “mini-world” of cultural diversity and political orientations. This path requires the courage to co-operate: Salaam, Shalom, Welcome.


Professor Harvey Skinner is chair of public health sciences and research director of CISEPO.

JACQUI OAKLEY




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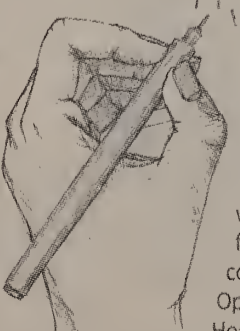


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rules and times)
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Exhibition Dates
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Knox College book sale, March 2 and 3 in the Knox College Library, 59 St. George St., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Theology and other subjects. Great books! Great bargains! Free admission.

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Healthy postmenopausal women (50-65 years) needed for exercise study through Department of Exercise Sciences at U of T. Cannot be on HRT or BP medications. Please contact Christina Whelan at 416-978-6109 or email: christina.whelan@utoronto.ca

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Join us for a debate about the meaning of marriage. Our panel includes **Dr. Elizabeth Abbott**, Trinity College; **David Brown**, Partner, Stikeman Elliott; **Anne Kingston**, author and columnist, National Post; **David Rayside**, Professor of Political Science and Sexual Diversity Studies, U of T; and **Prof. Bruce Ryder**, Osgoode Hall.

Attendance is free. For more information and to register, please go to learn.utoronto.ca or phone 416/978-2400 ext. 2.

The Meaning of Marriage is one in a series of public events at the School of Continuing Studies celebrating the re-opening of 158 St. George Street as a centre for adult learners at U of T.



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LECTURES

"Paler Than Grass": Love as a Disease in Classical Antiquity.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Prof. Massimo Ciavolella, University of California at Los Angeles; first of three F.E.L. Priestley memorial lectures on The Grief of Love: Ancient and Early Modern Perspectives in Western Culture. 140 University College. 4:30 p.m. *University College*

"Reasonable Belief": Six Faces of the Religious Enlightenment, 1689-1789.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Prof. David Sorkin, University of Wisconsin at Madison; Joseph & Gertie Schwartz memorial lecture. 208N Munk Centre for International Studies. 4 p.m. *Jewish Studies*

"De amore heroico": The Diseases of Love in Medieval Medical Thought.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Prof. Massimo Ciavolella, University of California at Los Angeles; second of three F.E.L. Priestley memorial lectures on The Grief of Love: Ancient and Early Modern Perspectives in Western Culture. 140 University College. 4:30 p.m. *University College*

Celestial Climate Driver: A Perspective From Four Billion Years of the Carbon Cycle.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Prof. Jan Veizer, University of Ottawa. 116 Wallberg Building. 12:30 p.m. *Chemical Engineering & Applied Chemistry*

"The Lovers Maladye of Hereos": Eros in Literature From the Roman de la rose to Petrarch.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Prof. Massimo Ciavolella, University of California at Los Angeles; final F.E.L. Priestley memorial lecture on The Grief of Love: Ancient and Early Modern Perspectives in Western Culture. 140 University College. 4:30 p.m. *University College*

"An Eagle in the Clouds": The City of Athens Under Roman Rule.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Prof. Celina Gray, McMaster University. Alumni Hall, Victoria College. 5:30 p.m. *Archaeological Institute of America, Toronto Society*

Tell Beydar, a City in the Syrian Jezirah Around 2400 BC.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Marc Lebeau, European Centre for Upper Mesopotamian Studies, Brussels. 142 Earth Sciences Building. 8 p.m. *Canadian Society for Mesopotamian Studies*

Debunking Myths on Worldwide Governance and Corruption: The Challenge of Empirical Evidence and Implications for New Strategies and Policies.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Daniel Kaufmann, World Bank Institute; annual David B. Goodman lecture. Bennett Lecture Hall, Flavelle House, 78 Queen's Park Cres. 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. *Law*

Biophotonics: Bringing Light to Life

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Prof. Brian Wilson, medical biophysics. Auditorium, Medical Sciences Building. 3 p.m. *Royal Canadian Institute*

The World After WIPO: Continuities and Discontinuities in the "Text Trade."

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Prof. Laura Murray, Queen's University. 205 Faculty of Information Studies, 140 St. George St. 4:15 p.m. *Toronto Centre for the Book*

Einstein's Jurors: The Race to Test Relativity.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Jeffrey Crellin, The Impact Group. Auditorium, Medical Sciences Building. 3 p.m. *Royal Canadian Institute*

COLLOQUIA

The Psychological Effects of Imaginative Literature.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Prof. Keith Oatley, human development and applied psychology, OISE/UT. 9-105 OISE/UT, 252 Bloor St. W. 12:30 to 2 p.m. *Human Development & Applied Psychology, OISE/UT*

How Thinking Can Control Feeling: A Social Cognitive Neuroscience Approach.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Prof. Kevin Ochsner, Columbia University. 2135 Sidney Smith Hall. 4 p.m. *Psychology*

Historicizing Private Lives in Iran.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Prof. Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi, history; graduate/faculty colloquium. 108N Munk Centre for International Studies. 4 to 6 p.m. *History*

The Best Job I [N]ever Had: Adding Non-Academic Alternatives to Your CV.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Philip Entros, Environment Canada; Brigit Ramsingh, Office of Policy & Strategic Planning; Ian Slater, ISIS. 323 Old Victoria College Building. 4 p.m. *History & Philosophy of Science & Technology*

Cultural Aspects of Community Geriatric Psychiatry.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Profs. Joel Sadavoy, Institute of Medical Science, and Rosemary Meier, public health sciences. Suite 106, 222 College St. Noon to 1:30 p.m. *Human Development, Life Course & Aging*

Is There Any Room for Reconciliation in Diplomacy?

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Fr. Leonel Narvaez, Foundation for Reconciliation, Bogotá, Colombia; Religion, International Diplomacy and Economics series. 208N Munk Centre for International Studies. Noon to 1:30 p.m. *Trinity College, International Studies and Study of Religion*

Common Issues in Research Contracts and Associated Ethical Issues.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Gordon DuVal, Joint Centre for Bioethics; Arti Duggal, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health; and Konrad Powell-Jones, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health. 801 College site. Noon. *Addiction & Mental Health*

SEMINARS

Wnt and Notch in Development and Cancer of the Intestine.

EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Dr. Hans Clevers, Hubrect Laboratory. 968 Mt. Sinai Hospital. 2 p.m. *Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute*

(Un)sustainable Transportation in the Greater Toronto Area.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Prof. Eric Miller, civil engineering. 2093 Earth Sciences Centre. 4 p.m. *Environmental Studies and Urban & Community Studies*

Integration of Newcomer Children and Youth in the Education System.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Elizabeth Coelho, OISE/UT; Antoinette Gagne, OISE/UT; Kenise Murphy Kilbride, CERIS senior scholar; moderator: Mehru Ali, CERIS. Room 548, 246 Bloor St. W. Noon to 2 p.m. *Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration & Settlement*

Adam Smith's Critique of Multinational Corporations: Theorizing Globalization in the Age of Enlightenment.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Prof. Sankar Muthu, Princeton University. 3130 Sidney Smith Hall. 2 to 4 p.m. *Political Science*

How Does Such a Simple Gas Influence Plant Development: New Insights Into Ethylene Regulation From Synthesis to Perception.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Prof. Sharon Regan, Queen's University. B142 Earth Sciences Centre. 3 p.m. *Botany*

Beta-catenin in Mesenchymal Cells: From Tumours to Stem Cells.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Prof. Benjamin Alman, laboratory medicine and pathobiology. 2172 Medical Sciences Building. 4 p.m. *Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology*

The Meaning of Marriage.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Panel discussion; Anne Kingston, *National Post*; Prof. David Rayside, political science; David Brown, Strikeman Elliott; and Bruce Ryder, Osgoode Hall Law School. Moderator: Elizabeth Abbott, Trinity College. School of Continuing Studies, 158 St. George St. 6 to 8 p.m. *Continuing Studies*

Generation of Pancreatic and Hepatic Cells From Mouse Embryonic Stem and Adult Progenitor Cells.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Anna Wobus, Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research. 968 Mt. Sinai Hospital. Noon. *Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute*

Modulators of AB13: A Genetic and Bioinformatic Approach.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Siobhan Brady, PhD thesis evaluation. B142 Earth Sciences Building. 3 p.m. *Botany*

What Is a Person? Redefining Personhood in Technological Interactions.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Prof. Derrick de Kerckhove, McLuhan program in culture and technology; Philosophy Café: What Is a Person? series. School of Continuing Studies, 158 St. George St. 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. *Continuing Studies*

The Ethnonational Policy of Ukraine After Gaining Independence: Analysis of Legal Aspects and Practical

Benefits.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Natalia Lazar, Jacyk visiting scholar. 108N Munk Centre for International Studies. 2 to 4 p.m. Registration jacyk.program@utoronto.ca; 416-946-8113. *Petro Jacyk Program for the Study of Ukraine*

Franconi Anemia: A Model of Cancer Susceptibility and DNA Damage Response.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Prof. Gary Kupfer, University of Virginia. 2172 Medical Sciences Building. 4 p.m. *Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology*



MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

NAFTA and the Future of North America: Trilateral Perspectives on Governance, Economic Development and Labour.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7

With leading experts from Mexico, the U.S. and Canada: Alejandro Alvarez, Greg Albo, Kimberly Elliott, Stephen Clarkson, Joe McKinney and Dick Roman. Croft Chapter House, University College. 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration: ucnafat@yahoo.ca; 416-815-6272. *Canadian Studies Program and Canada Institute, Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars*

Sound Bytes, Sound Rights: Canada at the Crossroads of Copyright Law.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Annual Technology & Intellectual Property Group conference will focus on the emerging legal framework for copyright law in Canada with emphasis on music and entertainment law. Bennett Lecture Hall, Flavelle House, 78 Queen's Park. 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pre-registration \$30, \$40 at the door; free to college and university students but pre-registration essential. To register go to www.innovationlaw.org/copyright.

Communication and Aging.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18 AND

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Conference brings together researchers, professionals, policy-makers, senior and students to translate knowledge into practice and create and strengthen connections between those who discover, use and benefit from new knowledge about communication and aging. Communication, Culture & Information Technology Building, U of T at Mississauga. Registration fee (by Feb. 12) \$100, students and seniors \$60. Information: www.utm.utoronto.ca/crbcs/events; 905-828-3865 or kpfuller@utm.utoronto.ca. *Research on Biological Communication Systems, UTM, and Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists & Audiologists*

Academic Board.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Council Chamber, Simcoe Hall. 4:10 p.m.

MUSIC

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Visiting Artists.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Thinking in Mbira, Prof. Paul Berliner, Northwestern University. Walter Hall. 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

The Heart That Remembers: A Tale of Musicians During Zimbabwe's Liberation War. Prof. Paul Berliner, Northwestern University. Walter Hall. 12:10 p.m.

Thursdays at Noon.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Symposium on Handel's opera *Semele*; a discussion by the creative team, chaired by Iain Scott with excerpts performed by members of the cast. Walter Hall. 12:10 p.m.

Celebrating a Life in Music.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Lorand Fenyes tribute concert. Walter Hall. 2 p.m.

KNOX COLLEGE

Choirs in Concert.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11

University Women's Chorus, Robert Cooper, director; Faculty of Music presentation. Chapel. 8 p.m. Tickets \$13, students and seniors \$7.

CONVOCATION HALL

Intervarsity Choral Festival Gala Concert.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Voices from six universities as a massed choir, Ivan Taurin, director; hosted by Hart House. 2 p.m. Tickets \$15, students and seniors \$10; 416-978-8849 or www.uoftitx.ca. Information: 416-978-6315, meghan.roberts@utoronto.ca.



PLAYS & READINGS

Madama Butterfly.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Clayton Scott, renowned opera storyteller and musician, performs a one woman interpretation of Madame Butterfly; a benefit for the Cabbagetown Community Arts Centre. George Ignatieff Theatre, 15 Devonshire Place. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$45, students \$25. Tickets and information, Shonna Hayes at art@ccac.bidcon.net; 416-925-7222.

Godspell.

WEDNESDAY TO SATURDAY,

FEBRUARY 9 TO FEBRUARY 12

Music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz; book by John Michael Tebelak; directed by Elenna Mosoff and Lindsay Notzl; produced by UC Follies Musical Company. Hart House Theatre. Performances at 8 p.m.; Saturday matinee 2 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

JUSTINA M. BARNICKE ART GALLERY

HART HOUSE

Tom Benner:

Cruising the Margins.

TO MARCH 3

Installation of hand-crafted automobiles. Both galleries. Gallery hours: Monday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m.

DORIS MCCARTHY GALLERY U OF T AT SCARBOROUGH

Recent Works.

TO MARCH 6

John Kissick, current works on panel, canvas and paper. Gallery hours: Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

BLACKWOOD GALLERY U OF T AT MISSISSAUGA

Theodore Wan.

TO MARCH 13

Theodore Wan, photo-based and ephemeral works from the late 1970s with material related to his activities as a studio photographer in the early 1980s; drawn primarily from the collection of the Vancouver Art Gallery. Gallery hours: Monday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.

EVENTS

MISCELLANY

**Storytelling/
Telling Our Stories:
Aboriginal Awareness Week.**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7 TO

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11

This year's events feature traditional teachers Mary Lou and Dan Smoke; elders Lillian McGregor and Jan Longboat; the Turtle Gals; Profs. Daniel Justice and Simon Ortiz; Lee Maracle, Annette Chrétien, Mark Solomon and Chris Harper; crafts with Mary Fox; massage therapy by Sue Jamieson; films, socials, taco sale. For information contact Shannon Simpson at shannon.simpson@utoronto.ca; 416-978-8227.

**Sustainability Office
Open House.**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10

The sustainability office, the organization charged with the task of reducing U of T's energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, official launch and open house. Find out more about this initiative, other environmental projects on campus and how you can get involved. Earth Sciences Centre, 5 Bancroft Ave. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

THE PETER H. BRIEGER LECTURE

Monday February 21 at 4:00
University College 140

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Brown University

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**Learn more
about marriage
on Valentine's Day
at the School of
Continuing Studies**

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Join us for a debate about the meaning of marriage. Our panel includes **Dr. Elizabeth Abbott**, Trinity College; **David Brown**, Partner, Stikeman Elliott; **Anne Kingston**, author and columnist, National Post; **David Rayside**, Professor of Political Science and Sexual Diversity Studies, U of T; and **Prof. Bruce Ryder**, Osgoode Hall.

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2005 Alexander Lectures

Longxi Zhang

*Chinese, Translation and Linguistics Studies
City University of Hong Kong*

**TEXTUAL ENCOUNTERS/
CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28

'The Fallacy of Cultural Incommensurability

TUESDAY, MARCH 1

"Faire une perle d'une larme": Reading across Cultures

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

*"Within the infant rind of this weak flower":
The Ambivalence of Poison and Medicine*

THURSDAY, MARCH 3

*"A Paradise within thee, happier far":
The Dialectic of Return and Reversal*

4:30 p.m., Room 140, University College
15 King's College Circle,
University of Toronto

Members of the staff, students and the public are cordially invited.

Project Open Source | Open Access Lecture Series Open Source | Open Access: Views from Across the Disciplines

Open source is a process for the collective production and sharing of knowledge. Open source is generally associated with the joint production of computer code, but increasingly, distributed peer production is part of the practice of many communities engaged in open access, open content, etc. The extent to which these concepts are related, the nature of the phenomenon, and the potential for the application of these principles in other domains is part of the current intellectual debate. At the same time, access to a global network of participants and the distinctive rights associated with the phenomenon has created a new space on the intellectual landscape that raises fundamental questions not only for scholars, but for all citizens of a global information society.

Produced by the **U of T's Knowledge Media Design Institute**, on behalf of Project Open Source | Open Access this lecture series launches a cross-divisional, tri-campus initiative to develop a networked community to share knowledge, enhance coordination, increase awareness, and to encourage research and knowledge mobilisation in this area.

Feb. 10: **Michael Geist**, Canada Research Chair in Internet and E-commerce Law, University of Ottawa and author of the Toronto Star's weekly column *Law Bytes*

Feb. 24: **PANEL: Taking Software Open Source: Three Views.** **Jutta Treviranus**, Director ATRC/KMDI, **Ron Baecker**, Professor Computer Science/KMDI & **Claus Rinner**, Assistant Professor, Geography

Mar. 10: **Trebor Scholz**, Institute for Distributed Creativity, SUNY, Buffalo

Mar. 17: **Marcus Bornfreund**, Director, *Creative Commons.ca*, Professor & Manager of the University of Ottawa Law & Technology Program

Mar. 31: **John Willinsky**, Principal Investigator of the *Public Knowledge Project*: & Professor, Faculty of Education, UBC

TBA: **Steven Weber**, author of *The Success of Open Source* & Director, Institute of International Studies, University of California, Berkeley

Lectures will be held from 4 to 5:30 p.m. EST in the Bahen Centre for Information Technology, BA 1200 (1st floor) 40 St. George St.

The series will be webcast live and archived using ePresence Interactive Media. Visit ePresence.kmdi.utoronto.ca for further details.

More events planned. For the latest information see: kmdi.utoronto.ca or the newly launched Project Open Source | Open Access website at open.utoronto.ca

Project Open Source | Open Access is supported by an award from the *Provost's Academic Initiatives Fund*



THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RACKET

Author finds publishing world full of surprises

By JOSEPH HEATH

LIKE MANY ACADEMICS, I DREAMED FOR YEARS OF FINDING A LARGER AUDIENCE FOR MY LITTLE thoughts and ruminations, beyond the musty journals that no one ever reads and the obscure hardcovers that never seem to find their way onto the shelves of any actual bookstore.

When I did finally break into the world of commercial publishing, I found it to be full of surprises. Some of these were pleasant. Did you know that some publishers will actually hire their own proofreaders to go through your book, rather than simply dump the proofs in your lap and ask for the corrections back within three days?

Some of the surprises, however, were not so pleasant. By far the most disturbing involved the way that copyrights and permissions are managed in commercial publishing. As academics, we simply take for granted the freedom to discuss and criticize each other's work. Yet outside the sheltered realm of academic publishing, this freedom has been severely curtailed, thanks to the increasingly restrictive interpretations of copyright that have come to dominate commercial publishing.

In case anyone thinks I'm exaggerating, let me start out with a rather dramatic example. When writing for a mass audience, one very standard technique for making a point is to find some element of popular culture, like a movie or TV show, that illustrates it. No matter how abstruse the argument, if you can explain it with reference to *The Simpsons*, everyone will think you're making perfect sense.

The problem is that the popular culture, almost without exception, *belongs to somebody*. Furthermore, most of it is governed by the extraordinarily restrictive interpretation of copyright that Hollywood has been successfully pushing for the past few decades. If you want to quote anything from a movie, a TV show or a song — no matter how small — you will need permission. And if you succeed in getting permission, it will cost you. But here's the extraordinary thing — there's a good chance you will not get it.

In my recent book, *The Rebel Sell: Why Culture Can't Be Jammed*, my co-author Andrew Potter and I wanted to talk a bit about the movie *Full Metal Jacket* to make a point about uniforms and individuality. We had also hoped to quote a grand total of 43 words of dialogue, discontinuously. It is worth noting that we got the text of this dialogue from the Internet Movie Database (www.imdb.com), where it is freely available to the entire world. The screenplay has also been available in book form for over 20 years.

Nevertheless, if you want to quote even one line of dialogue from this movie, you have to write to Warner Bros. Naturally, the folks at Warner Bros. have better things to do with their time than respond to silly little permission requests. Nevertheless, after six months of letter-writing, e-mailing, faxing and phone calls, we finally received the following notice from Gary Simon, senior vice-president (business and legal affairs) at Warner Bros. Consumer Products. He informed us: "While we appreciate your request, I regret to inform you that our present intellectual property policies preclude us from granting you permission to use this property for the requested purpose."

This was followed by some lengthy legalese, informing us of the awesome scope, depth and comprehensive nature of their ownership claim over *Full Metal Jacket*, along with anything "subsisting in or associated therewith." The letter ended with the following triumphant kiss-off: "We thank you for your interest in our properties."

The good people at Warner Bros. were only slightly less obstructionist when it came to our desire to quote a few lines of dialogue from *The Matrix*. Although acknowledging that they were indeed the copyright holders, they informed us that in order to quote from the movie, we would need to contact the Wachowski brothers directly and secure their personal permission. Needless to say, they did not supply us with any contact information.

The situation is not that much better when it comes to books. Indeed, one of my nastiest surprises was the discovery that academic publishers can be just as obstructionist as commercial ones. The problem is that the notion of fair use, which governs the right to quote

without permission, has never been clearly defined by the courts. In academic publishing it tends to be interpreted quite liberally, not for any principled reason but simply because there is so little money involved that no copyright holder has an incentive to sue.

Commercial publishing, on the other hand, often involves non-negligible sums of money. Thus these publishers tend to be extremely cautious when it comes to fair use. Their general rule of thumb is that once the cumulative amount that you quote from someone else's work, either continuously or discontinuously, exceeds 100 words, you need to get permission. Furthermore, by hook or by crook, it is the author who pays for these permissions.

When writing away for these permissions, it is important to do whatever you can to make your book project seem as pathetic and insignificant as possible. All of my publishers have warned me that as soon as anyone smells money, they will hit you up for as much as they can. In *The Rebel Sell*, we had hoped to quote just slightly over 300 words — again, discontinuously — from George Ritzer's *The McDonaldization of Society* from Pine Forge Press, a division of the well-known academic publisher, Sage Publications. Sage responded to our permission request with a demand for US \$350 for just the Canadian hardcover print run. That worked out to an effective royalty rate of one-half a percentage point off the cover price of our book for Ritzer.

They also insisted that we return to them for additional permissions (and additional payments) every time a new edition was released or print run made. We e-mailed Ritzer, who was kind enough to intervene with Sage on our behalf. They reduced the price by half

but were unwilling to drop their demand that we keep returning to them for new permissions. Rather than deal with the hassle, we simply cut most of the discussion of Ritzer's book out, so that what remained was less than 80 words — falling clearly within the realm of fair use.

By contrast, we found Time-Warner to be positively magnanimous when it came to granting permissions.

This lack of consistency across the industry is not difficult to understand. Requests for permissions tend to be handled by the "rights department" at any given firm. The same department also tends to be responsible for going through in-house publications and telling authors what they need to get permission for. In other words, the people who compel authors to go out and seek permissions are often the very same people who charge authors for permissions.

When crafting my permission requests it occurred to me that I

might ask someone in the rights department how he handled incoming requests and what sort of criteria he used in deciding whether to charge the author. He replied, in all seriousness, "I ask myself whether I feel like making some money that day."

Comments like this make it difficult to avoid the impression that the permissions game is becoming little more than a racket, one that imposes enormous transaction costs upon commercial publication, stifles creativity and degrades the quality of public criticism and debate.

In the end, the book that we published was significantly different from the book that we wrote. Furthermore, after wasting weeks — not days — dealing with permission requests, we wound up not paying a single cent to anyone. Rights holders either allowed us to quote without charge or else they made such unreasonable demands that we had no choice but to cut the material out of the book.

How to fix the problem? For starters, we need a clear legal interpretation of fair use. This would eliminate the lawsuit chill that currently dictates the policies of commercial publishers. Beyond that, we may need a mandatory licensing system (like the one that governs musical compositions) so that copyright holders cannot arbitrarily deny permissions to those whose work they happen not to like. But above all, we need to remind ourselves that copyrights are not intended as the expression of a property right — their proper economic role is merely to shepherd works into the public realm.

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